

Message Text

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41

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NEAE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-15 AID-05 FDRE-00 HEW-06 DHA-02 SCA-01 SCSE-00

EB-07 IO-11 INT-05 /104 W

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P 081234Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3276

UNCLAS NEW DELHI 0381

DEPT PLS PASS TO MESA

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OGEN IN

SUBJECT: CHASNALA MINE DISASTER

REF: NEW DELHI 0269

1. INDIA'S JANUARY 8 PRESS COVERAGE OF THE CHASNALA MINE DISASTER HIGHLIGHTS COMMISSIONING OF SOVIET PUMPS AND GOVERNMENT RELIEF MEASURE BEING TAKEN.

2. THE HINDUSTAN TIMES REPORTS THE COMMISSIONING OF ONE OF THE FOUR SOVIET SUBMERSIBLE PUMPS ON JANUARY 7. IT APPARENTLY DEVELOPED TECHNICAL PROBLEMS BUT WAS PUT IN ORDER BY SOVIET, POLISH AND BCCL ENGINEERS ON THE SCENE. FOLLOWING BRIEF BREAKDOWN THE PUMP STARTED PUMPING AT THE RATE OF 1200 GALLONS PER MINUTE. THE SECOND HIGH CAPACITY SOVIET PUMPS IS EXPECTED TO BE PUT IN OPERATION TODAY TO BE FOLLOWED BY TWO MORE, 48 HOURS AFTER THE SECOND PUMP. AS OF WEDNESDAY EVENING (JANUARY 7) 45 MILLION GALLONS OF WATER HAD BEEN PUMPED OUT AND THE WATER LEVEL INSIDE THE MINE REDUCED BY 45 FEET.

3. THE INDIAN EXPRESS REPORTS "THE BATTLE TO DEWATER THE CHASNALA UNCLASSIFIED

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MINE ENTERED A WINNING PHASE TODAY (JANUARY 7) WITH THE COMMISSION

ING OF ONE HIGH-POWERED RUSSIAN PUMP. ALTHOUGH COMMIS
SIONED 36 HOURS BEHIND SCHEDULE, THE INSTALLATION OF THE SOVIET
PUMP BRIGHTENED THE HOPE OF AN EARLY DEWATERING OF THE MINE".
THE SOVIET PUMP WAS EXPECTED TO HAVE A DISCHARGE CAPACITY OF
1350 GALLONS PER MINUTE, BUT WAS PUMPING AT 1200 GALLONS PER
MINUTE FOLLOWING A BRIEF BREAKDOWN.

4. THE NATIONAL HERALD SAYS THE HIGH POWERED RUSSIAN PUMP
COMMISSIONED ON JANUARY 7 HAS A CAPACITY OF 2300 TO 2400 GALLONS
PER MINUTE.

5. ACCORDING TO THE TIMES OF INDIA DEWATERING OPERATIONS AT THE
CHASNALA MINE WERE STEPPED UP WITH THE COMMISSIONING OF MORE PUMPS
UNDER THE GUIDANCE OF NINE SOVIET AND FOUR POLISH EXPERTS. THE
TIMES REPORTS "ACCORDING TO A PRESS NOTE ISSUED FROM RAJ BHAVAN
IN THE EVENING, THE GOVERNOR WAS TOLD BY THE RESCUE AND RELIEF
AUTHORITIES AT CHASNALA THAT BECAUSE OF LIMITED SPACE FOR OPERA
TION OF THE PUMPS, IT WILL TAKE ANOTHER WEEK OR SO FOR THE MINE
TO BE COMPLETELY DEWATERED".

6. THE INDIAN PRESS REPORTS GOI ESTABLISHING A PANEL TO
UNDERTAKE A FORMAL INQUIRY INTO THE CHASNALA COLLIERY ACCIDENT.
MORE ARTICLES REGARDING ACCIDENTS AND SAFETY MEASURES IN
MINES HAVE ALSO BEEN APPEARING IN THE PRESS.SAXBE

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